

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co. Inc. Potomac River Works

U.S. Route 11 North, Hoffman Road
Falling Waters, WV 25401
Congressional District 2
EPA ID #: WVD041952714
Last Updated 6/9/05

Current Progress at the Site

In 1999, EPA issued a RCRA Corrective Action Permit to the DuPont Potomac River Works, which required the facility to conduct investigations and determine if cleanup activities were necessary. DuPont addressed the first requirement of the permit by submitting the "Release Assessment/RCRA Facility Investigation Workplan" in June 1999. The workplan was designed to evaluate soil and groundwater quality beneath/near fourteen areas on the facility property. EPA approved the workplan and, in October 2000, DuPont initiated implementation of the field program. The investigation included sampling soil and groundwater to determine if releases to the environment had occurred, evaluating the site geology and hydrogeology, and assessing the site surface water characteristics.



View of the former spray irrigation system used to treat wastewater

After DuPont concluded the field work described in the workplan, Dupont submitted a report to EPA in November 2002. The report included results of the field investigation and a proposal for further investigation to address identified data gaps. DuPont also submitted documentation in late summer 2003 to help achieve the Environmental Indicators (CA-725 and CA-750). Both Environmental Indicators have been granted (Yes) for this site by EPA. In February 2004 DuPont received comments from the EPA on the Release Assessment/RCRA Facility Investigation report; DuPont is currently addressing these comments.

Site Description

The DuPont Potomac River Works site is located on U.S. Route 11 in Falling Waters, Berkeley County, West Virginia and is approximately 5 miles northeast of Martinsburg, WV. The 1,350-acre facility is situated along the Potomac River and has manufactured specialty chemical products and various commercial explosive, including dynamite, trinitrotoluene (TNT), and nitroglycerine since 1952. The site suspended all explosive manufacturing operations in 1994.

Today, DuPont employs about 100 people at the Potomac River Works site and has a single production area, which manufactures and assembles nonexplosive roof bolt grouting systems called Fasloc®, used in mining and construction. The area surrounding the site contains a mix of industrial, agricultural, and residential developments. Prior to DuPont's ownership, the area was primarily woodlands or farmlands owned by various private landowners.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Contaminants

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrates are the main constituents found in the site's soil and groundwater. The VOCs consist primarily of benzene, styrene and ethyl benzene.

Community Interaction

The DuPont Potomac River Works maintains an open dialog with the local community through frequent meetings and informational mailings.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action program, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm.

Facility Contact

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